



NEWS ITEM: STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS GET IN FREE TO ALL STUDENT FUNCTIONS.

## Dal's "laissez faire" Council

Student council has had time now to feel out its role, new councilors and a new executive are familiar with the "moved, seconded, passed or defeated" traffic signals, and the occasional "point of order, point of privilege" and gavel slamming of our judicious chair (equivalent to a red light) and our student government bumbles merrily along.

Yes, the democratic process is sluggish, necessarily and admirably so. But our product, the opinionated sum of 30 duly elected and acclaimed councillors, leaves a bit to be desired. It's too clean.

Sanitation is a virtue, smelly cliques and conspiracies are not what we are promoting, rather we wish

council would be less timid, less afraid to get its hands dirty, grip a hold of an essential defining principle and say, hey, we stand for something.

What is council if not the guardian of our student fees, promoters of goodwill, responsibility, and progressiveness in the student body it represents, and more specifically, the societies that make up its whole? Handbooks and Grawood renovations aside, council has regressed rather than progressed in the issues that matter most.

Four weeks ago council voted it did not have the right to revoke the Golden D award, a prestigious recognition of an individual's dedicated work for the union, a

person to respect, providing an example that ideally all councillors would strive to achieve. A majority vote was not enough. Council hedged and stammered and failed to achieve the necessary 2/3 majority for a constitutional amendment.

Last week council voted it did not have the right to censor a member society's right to chose its form of activities, in the student union building, where the hiring of strippers runs in the face of the union's so-called liberated move to establish a women's committee last year, symbolizing council's recognition of the need for education and action on this campus as to the oppression of women that is so

ingrained in our society.

What rights and principles does council stand for anyhow? Not much it seems. Not too many years ago, students were feared for their outspoken criticism against norms in society that stifled students in their aca. If council can't stand for responsibility in its own house, if council cannot take action when a student and recipient of the Golden 'D', abuses the student funds, then its respect in student eyes and in the community decreases rapidly. How can thousands of students march on the legislature demanding more responsible demic struggles and as human beings. Professors and administration alike were

affected by the push for student rights in the classroom, students' rights and people's rights in the restricted unenlightened 50's and 60's government, when their own government is chicken to touch an issue hotter than disc jockeys and the administration of grants.

There is applaudable work being done by council, their hearts are in the right places and student life will benefit from a more enjoyable Grawood and a cheap disc jockey service. But the politics and leadership implied in a democratic government are substituted for a regressive "hands off" policy, that can only damage council's reputation on campus and be depicted as hypocritical in the larger community.

# the Dalhousie Gazette

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## LETTERS

To the Editor,

In reference to the 'Beer Garden' held last Thursday night in the McInnes room of the Student Union building by the Engineering Society, the following points should be noted; first of all this was not a publicized event, public participation was not wanted or expected and, this was realized as out of about 250 people present, approximately 75% were engineering students with the remainder being guest signed in by Society members. Second, the Engineering Society, like most other groups on campus, is suffering from student apathy. This event was held to get some spirit back into the Society as well as to encourage participation by students.

The event was held in a very

orderly manner; the audience was well controlled by SUB staff, assisted by the Engineering Society security force. The exotic dancers performed their show and were then escorted off the campus under tight security. Never was there any contact between performers and audience and, contrary to popular rumor, there were no door prizes awarded.

The 'Beer Garden' was held solely for the entertainment of Society members and the Engineering Society sincerely apologizes for any insult or discomfort this event may have caused to other groups on or off the Dalhousie campus.

The Engineering Society Executive Council

To the Editor,

It was noted at the recent Engineer's Beer Bash last Thursday night in the McInnes Room that the number of women in the audience (out of 250 or more) could be counted on two, and more likely one, finger. The bash was open to all Engineers and their guests, but where were the "guests"? Not surprising is the fact that no self-respecting woman (and I include the strippers) was to be found at that event. Obviously, the choice of entertainment quite excluded the presence of women.

Other than the strippers, the entertainment (the band) was quite decent (pardon the pun!). The Engineers, though, were

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